

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 284

My name is Dr. Molly Markowitz, and I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT. I am representing myself, and my views do not reflect that of my employers.

I am writing in strong support of SB 284.

I want to share a story about how the lack of health insurance for children can lead to great harm and long-lasting negative health outcomes.

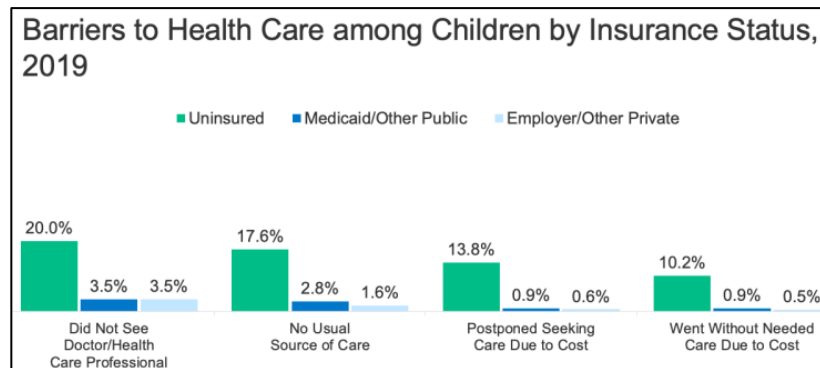
This past fall, I met with an 11-year-old patient and his mother for a routine physical. The patient had not been seen in clinic for several years.

The mother shared that she was really concerned about her son's weight. He had gained over 100 lbs. in the past several years. I too was very concerned. His blood pressure was elevated indicating possible hypertension and his body was showing signs of insulin resistance and diabetes. At school, the patient was experiencing significant bullying regarding his weight, causing emotional challenges.

When I asked why the patient had not been seen in clinic for several years, the mother shared that it was because they did not have health insurance.

This is the same situation for many children in CT.

Data from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) shows that children who lacked health insurance experience many barriers to accessing care (see figure below).



As pediatricians, every day we meet with patients and families to discuss the importance of diet, exercise, sleep, and so much more in order to prevent the development of chronic and debilitating diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease.

We know that the way children live today will impact their life for years to come.

This is why it is so important that all children, regardless of immigration status, have access to medical care.

Therefore, I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony.

I would be happy to answer any questions via email if helpful. Email: molly.markowitz@yale.edu

